



Rockport Millbrook Meadow Committee

P.O. Box 51, Rockport, MA 01966

www.millbrookmeadow.org

*Charmaine Blanchard
Laura Hallowell
Shannon Mason, Vice Chair
Barbara Sparks
Stephanie Woolf*

*Samuel W. Coulbourn, Chair
Marcia Lombardo, Treasurer
Aileen Morrissey
Frederick H. Tarr III*

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday, July 13th, 2016 Trustees' Room, Rockport Public Library



Information board erected by Shannon Mason for Acoustic Festival. Shown is Millbrook Advisor Tom Mikus.

SUMMARY: Members decided upon modifications to Meadow Design for permitting. Meadow Use Application approved and sent to Selectmen. More detailed plan for moving the turtles prior to dredging. New ideas for fund raising.

7:00 p.m. Chairman **Sam Coulbourn** called the meeting to order. Members present: **Aileen Morrissey, Marcia Lombardo, Shannon Mason, Laura Hallowell, Stephanie Woolf, and Ted Tarr.** **Eric Hutchins and Tom Mikus,** Advisors to the RMMC, were present. **Charmaine Blanchard** arrived at 7:56 p.m. **Barbara Sparks was absent. Paul Makowski** was also present.

1. Public Input. There was none.

2. Committee Business.

Treasurer's Report. Marcia reported that balance in operating account is \$885.12; balance in restoration funds from the Lura Hall Phillips Trust is \$89,816.39. Marcia had questions about some items in ECCF's report of our funds. Shannon asked her to call ECCF to clarify.

Approve Minutes of July 13th, 2016. Laura moved to approve and Stephanie seconded. All voted to approve.

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3. Update status of Millbrook Meadow Restoration

Permitting for Dredging. Public Comment is now being accepted for the State 401 Water Quality Certification, needed before dredging is permitted. This is a one-month period.

Plans and modifications for Meadow restoration permitting. Laura reported that she had met with Joe Parisi, DPW Director, Sam and Barbara and gone through a list of issues in the plans for the Meadow prepared by the Contractor, MMI.

Plans for Frog Pond restoration. MMI's plan calls for removing all of the stone lining around the Frog Pond, except for the wall where the Brook flows beneath the Founders' (stone) bridge. Members discussed this at length, and voted unanimously (Stephanie moved, Ted seconded) to repair the stone bank on the King Street side of the pond, and retain its vertical condition as it is now. Jason Williams of MMI has said that this will require changing the dredging plan, as that bank's stone wall would be undermined otherwise. Members asked that, unless there are conditions unknown to them, this side of the Frog Pond should not have the sloping banks planned for the other sides.

Meadow Path. Laura asked members if they concurred with the MMI plan to build in several undulations in the path. Members felt that the existing path layout was preferable, in that it provided more room for plantings between the Meadow and the Peg Leg Parking Lot, it intruded less upon the playing field, and even a few feet of extra walking was not helpful. They also felt that a simple, stone dust path, with subtle edges, was preferable to a concrete path. That all depends upon ADA compliance.

Entry Plaza. Members felt this was unnecessary and should not be included in the plans.

Electrical Service. Members discussed this at length. They favored a conduit that would run near or under the meadow path, to provide electricity for low-intensity bollards as MMI has planned. They did not favor solar-powered lights inasmuch as the solar panels on each bollard would be obtrusive. They would like to see locked outlets, especially in the area near the stains from the dam, for providing electricity for events there. There should also be outlets along the path for use for booths set up there.

Water Service. After much discussion, members agreed on a plan to provide seasonal service basically from Beach Street, along the Meadow Path, to the stairway down from the dam. There should be locked outlets such that most parts of the Meadow could be reached with a 100-foot-long hose.

Relocation of Mill Brook. Members agreed on the proposed sinuous path, and agreed that the brook should pass through the existing dogwood thicket.

Local Granite. Eric suggested that design specs should include a stipulation for use of local granite, and members agreed.

Mooring Stone. Insert provisions for relocating and/or protecting this during construction.

Plan for moving fish and turtles. Eric presented a proposal for removing turtles and fish from the Mill Pond before dredging starts. He has coordinated with the Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team and Kestral Educational Adventures, and has a plan that would cost \$4000. Eric said that this project contained many educational opportunities and good public relations.

Turtle Log. Eric made his suggestion that we should plan to install a log in the Pond with chain and mooring, near enough for human observation, so that turtles would have a place to sun themselves safely.

Plan for Presenting Master Implementation Plan. Laura said that Frank Hassler could not be present, and asked that this be tabled until the September meeting.

4. Fundraising Sub-Committee, Publicity and Community Outreach.

Information Session at Library, Thurs. July 21st. Shannon reported that, while attendance was low (20 people, including eight MMC members) discussion was good.

Paul A. Makowski, a retired Chief Financial Officer for Gannet Publications, Boston Public Library, and more, attended the July 21 information session, and has offered to help us with fund raising. He provided a list of suggested fund-raising events, including a road race that starts and ends in the Meadow, a local golf tournament, a picnic in the park, on-line “Go Fund Me” type solicitations, approaches to large local companies, and passing the hat downtown. His guidance to MMC: “No one ever got anything by saying ‘No’”. Shannon will invite him to the next fund raising subcommittee meeting.

Plans for future outreach and fund raising. Shannon asked members to come forward to volunteer for projects that catch their interest. We have plenty of ideas for raising funds, but few people to actually carry them out. She mentioned “Meadow Ambassadors”, gathering people who have grown up in Rockport, and have fond memories of Pond and Meadow. We’d like to get them together, to get them to write reminiscences which could be used in our public relations and fund raising. Eric suggested that we could offer monthly walks. He already does these several times a year, and said that they can be easy to do, and not require a lot of preparation.

5. Plan for Town Meeting and CPC warrant article. \Laura and Sam will coordinate letters to the editor of the Gloucester Daily Times to increase voter awareness. Sam urged others to send letters if they wish. Letters should be coordinated.

6. Meadow Use Application Form. Charmaine has coordinated with the Town Administrator, and presented a clean document. Members requested two changes: Instead of advising applicant to allow at least ten days for reply, it should be 30 days, and members agreed that, owing to meetings held once a month, and time for Town Administrator to Act, this meant only that we would discuss their request with them within 30 days, and advise if it were feasible. Also the limitation on tents was removed. Members voted on this version. Sam will forward to the Town Administrator for approval.

7. Meadow Events

Acoustic Festival, Sun. August 7th was held and Shannon installed an information display next to the food booth.

Rockport Music Gala, Sat. August 27th –Shannon provided an update on plans. The gala will be held under a slightly larger tent, for large donors. Wynton Marsalis will be the guest of honor. The event will be from 8 to 11 p.m.
Conrad-Young Wedding, September 17th

8. New Business. None

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9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 14th, 2016, at Trustees' Room, Rockport Public Library.

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m. (Charmaine moved, Shannon seconded, all approved.)

Approved:

Samuel W. Coulbourn

Copy to: Town Administrator; Director of Public Works; Conservancy Board and Advisors; Conservation Agent; DPW Commissioners